

## Message Text

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SUBJECT: UKRAINIAN PARTY CONGRESS: SHCHERBITSKIY CONSOLIDATES  
POSITION

1. SUMMARY. RESULTS OF UKRAINIAN PARTY CONGRESS AND COM-  
POSITION OF NEW PARTY LEADERSHIP INDICATED CONSIDERABLE  
SUCCESS BY SHCHERBITSKIY IN PLACING HIS MEN IN KEY POSITIONS OF THE  
UKRAINIAN PARTY ORGANIZATION. CHANGES INCLUDED THREE NEW  
POLITBURO MEMBERS (TWO OF THEM PROMOTED FROM CANDIDATE); THREE  
NEW CANDIDATE MEMBERS; THREE FULL MEMBERS AND ONE CANDIDATE  
DROPPED; AND ONE SECRETARY ADDED. ELEVATION OF I.Z. SOKOLOV  
AS PARTY'S SECOND SECRETARY, IN PARTICULAR, PUTS IN PLACE A  
HANDPICKED SHCHERBITSKIY APPOINTEE AS A LOYAL LIEUTENANT OR  
POSSIBLE SUCCESSOR IF SHCHERBITSKIY IS TAPPED FOR A CENTRAL CPSU  
LEADERSHIP POSITION AT 25TH CONGRESS OR THEREAFTER. P.L.  
POGREBNIYAK, ALSO A SHCHERBITSKIY MAN, BECAME THE FIRST DEPUTY  
PREMIER IN CHARGE OF AGRICULTURAL POLICY. USSR  
MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE POLYANSKIY WAS CRITICIZED BY NAME IN  
SPEECH DURING THE CONGRESS BY TSYBUL'KO, WHO WAS HIMSELF DEMOTED  
FROM HIS POSITION AS CANDIDATE POLITBURO MEMBER, ALTHOUGH  
HE RETAINED HIS POST AS KIEV OBKOM FIRST SECRETARY.  
END SUMMARY.

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2. FOLLOWING THE PLENARY MEETING OF UKRAINIAN PARTY'S CENTRAL COMMITTEE ON FEBRUARY 13 (THE LAST DAY OF THE CONGRESS), PRAVDA UKRAINYNY PUBLISHED ON THE FOLLOWING DAY THE SLATE OF NEW UKRAINIAN POLITBURO AND SECRETARIAT. THE POLITBURO INCLUDES, AS FULL MEMBERS: INCUMBETS N. M. BORISENKO, I.S. BRUSHETSKIY, A.P. LYASHKO, V.V. SHCHERBITSKIY, V.A. SOLOGUB, A.A. TITARENKO, G.I. VASHCHENKO, AND A.F. VATCHENKO; NEW MEMBERS A.P. BOTVIN (FIRST SECRETARY OF KIEV CITY PARTKOM SINCE DECEMBER 1964), V.V. FEDORCHUK (PROMOTED FROM CANDIDATE; CHAIRMAN UKRAINIAN KGB), AND I.Z. SOKOLOV (PORMOTED FROM POLITBURO CANDIDATE AND ALSO FROM CANDIDATE TO FULL MEMBER OF CENTRAL COMMITTEE; FIRST SECRETARY OF KHARK'OV OBKOM SINCE JAUNE 1972).

3. AS CANDIDATE MEMBERS: INCUMBETS V.YE. MALANCHUK AND YA. P. POGREBNIYAK; NEW MEMBERS V.F. DOBRIK (FIRST SECRETARY OF L'VOV OBKOM SINCE FEBRARY 1974), B.V. KACHURA (WHO REPLACED DEGTYAREV AS FIRST SECRETARY OF DONETSK OBKOM IN JANUARY 1976)AND P.L. POGREBNIYAK (WHO WAS PROMOTED FROM MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE TO FIRST DEPUTY PREMIER).

4. DROPPED FROM POLITBURO: FULL MEMBERS V.I. DEGTYAREV (OUSTED AS FIRST SECRETARY OF DONETSK OBKOM IN JANUARY 1976 AND NOT REELECTED TO THE CENTRAL COMMITTEE), N.T. KAL'CHENKO (ALSO RELIEVED AS THE FIRST DEPUTY PREMIER RESPONSIBLE FOR AGRICULTURE AND RETIRED ON PENSION, BUT, CURIOUSLY, RETAINED AS FULL MEMBER OF CENTRAL COMMITTEE), I.K. LUTAK (OUSTED AS SECEOND SECRETARY IN JANUARY 1976 BUT REELECTED TO THE CENTRAL COMMITTEE). DROPPED AS CANDIDATE POLITBURO MEMBER: V.M. TSYBUL'KO (BUT RELECTED TO THE CENTRAL COMMITTEE AND RETAINED AS FIRST SECRETARY OF THE KIEV OBKOM).

5. THE NEW SECRETARIAT CONSISTS OF THE FOLLOWING: V.V. SHCHERBITSKIY (FIRST SECRETARY), I.Z. SOKOLOV (NEWLY ELECTED AND DESIGNATED SECOND SECRETARY) AND INCUMBENTS N.M. BORISENKO, V. YE. MALANCHUK, YA. P. POGREBNIYAK, AND A.A. TITARENKO.

6. BY MOVING INTO THE POLITBURO AS CANDIDATE MEMBER AND REPLACING N.T. KAL'CHENKO AS FIRST DEPUTY PREMIER  
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(KAL'CHENKO WAS ONE OF TWO FIRST DEPUTY PREMIERS AND THE ONE RESPONSIBLE FOR AGRICULTURE), P.L. POGREBNIYAK HAS BECOME THE MAN IN CHARGE OF AGRICULTURAL POLICY IN THE UKRAINE. HIS REPLACEMENT AS THE NEW MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE IS M.F. KHORUNZHIY, WHOSE APPOINTMENT WAS ANNOUNCED IN PRAVDA UKRAINY ON FEBRUARY 14. POGREBNIYAK BECAME MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE IN FEBRUARY 1971, IN PERIOD OF STRUGGLE BETWEEN THE SHCCHERBITSKIY AND SHELEST FACTIONS WITHIN THE UKRAINIAN

PARTY, AND MUST BE COUNTED AS A SCHCHERBITSKIY MAN.  
WE HAVE NO BIOGRAPHIC DATA ON KHORUNZHIY, OTHER THAN  
THAT HIS LAST POSITION WAS AS CHAIRMAN OF THE ZAPROOZH'YE  
OBLISPOLKOM.

7. COMMENT: OUR INITIAL IMPRESSION OF THESE CHANGES IS  
A FURTHER CONSOLIDATION OF SHCHERBITSKIY'S POSITION. HE  
APPARENTLY HAS PLACED HIS MEN IN KEY POSITIONS OF UKRAINIAN  
PARTY ORGANIZATION, THUS ENHANCING HIS CHANCES FOR  
MOVING TO CPSU LEADERSHIP IN MOSCOW AT 25TH CONGRESS OR  
THEREAFTER. SOKOLOV, IN PARTICULAR, APPEARS TO BE A HAND-  
PICKED SHCHERBITSKIY APPOINTEE WHO WENT UP CAREER LADDER  
IN TRACKS OF G.I. VASHCHENKO (ANOTHER SCHERBITSKIY PROTEGE).  
IN JUNE 1972, SOKOLOV (THEN SECOND SECRETARY OF KHAR'KOV  
OBLKOM) REPLACE VASHEHENKO AS FIRST SECRETARY OF THE KHAR'KOV  
OBLAST' AT A PLENUM PERSONALLY SUPERVISED BY  
SHCHERBITSKIY; VASHCHENKO (WHO HAD ALREADY BECOME A FULL  
PRESIDIUM MEMBER IN MARCH 1971) THEN MOVED UP AS  
FIRST DEPUTY PREMIER IN CHARGE OF INDUSTRY. THESE  
PERSONNEL SHIFTS FORMED PART OF THE STRUGGLE WITHIN THE UKRAINIAN  
LEADERSHIP BEFORE P. YE. SHELEST WAS OUSTED AS FIRST  
SECRETARY OF THE UKRAINIAN PARTY IN MAY 1972 BY SHCHERBITSKIY.

8. AS UKRAINIAN SECOND SECRETARY, SOKOLOV BECOMES A LIKELY  
CANDIDATE TO REPLACE SHCHERBITSKIY IF THE LATTER RELINQUISHES  
HIS POSITION AS FIRST SECRETARY FOR BIGGER THINGS IN  
MOSCOW. SOKOLOV'S APPARENTLY RUSSIAN NATIONALITY IS A  
HANDICAP, BUT A SURMOUNTABLE ONE, AS KHRUSHCHEV'S  
UKRAINIAN CAREER DEMONSTRATES. ON THE OTHER HAND,  
APPOINTMENT OF A UKRAINIAN AS SECOND SECRETARY WOULD  
HAVE BEEN A CLEARER SIGNAL THAT SHCHERBITSKIY WAS  
ANTICIPATING A POSSIBLE MOVE TO THE CENTER.

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9. IT IS NOTEWORTHY THAT V.M. TSYBUL'KO, IN HIS SPEECH  
AT THE UKRAINIAN CONGRESS, WENT OUT OF HIS WAY TO CRITICIZE  
THE PERFORMANCE OF THE USSR MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND  
POLYANSKIY PERSONALLY. HE ALSO CRITICIZED USSR MINISTER  
OF MACHINE BUILDING FOR ANIMAL HUSBANDRY AND FODDER  
PRODUCTION K.N. BELYAK (WHO IS REPORTEDLY BREZHNEV'S  
BROTHER-IN-LAW), AT THE SAME TIME THAT BELYAK WAS BEING  
AWARDED THE ORDER OF LENIN (LENISKOYE ZNAMYA, FEBRUARY 14).

10. IN SUM, THE UKRAINIAN CONGRESS DIFFERS FROM OTHER  
REPUBLIC CONGRESSES, WHERE PERSONNEL SHIFTS WERE LARGELY EX-  
PLANABLE IN CONTEXT OF REPUBLIC POLITICS, IN HAVING  
DIRECT IMPLICATIONS FOR THE NATIONAL LEADERSHIP PICTURE AS  
WELL AS FOR NATIONAL POLICY ISSUES. IT IS HARD TO KNOW WHAT  
IMPORTANCE TO ASCRIBE TO TSYBUL'KO'S PERSONAL CRITICISM OF

POLYANSKIY, GIVEN TSYBUL'KO'S DEMOTION AT THE CONGRESS  
AND THE FACT THAT HE APPARENTLY WAS BADLY OUT OF STEP IN HIS  
CRITICISM OF BELYAK. IT NONETHELESS SEEMS SIGNIFICANT THAT  
PRAVDA UKRAINY CHOSE TO PUBLISH TSYBUL'KO'S CRITICAL COMMENTS,  
IN WHICH POLYANSKIY WAS SPECIFICALLY NAMED.  
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